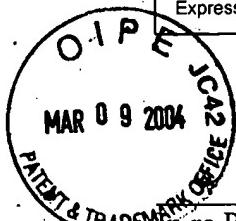


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Dated: 03-09-04



Docket No.: 09495/000L026-US0
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Kazuya Kuriyama et al.

Application No.: 09/160,665

Filed: September 25, 1998

Confirmation No. 6619

Art Unit: 1725

Examiner: Maria Alexandra Elve

For: WELDING PROCESS FOR TI MATERIAL
AND CU MATERIAL, AND A BACKING
PLATE FOR A SPUTTERING TARGET

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION (37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.116)

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated September 9, 2003 (Paper No. 15) please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

Applicants submit herewith a Petition for a three-month extension of time, along with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).